

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Assembly  
(Mayor's Question Time)**  
**Date: Monday 25 February 2013**  
**Time: 10.00 am**  
**Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's  
Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/whole-assembly>

**Present:**

Jennette Arnold OBE (Chair)	Jenny Jones
Darren Johnson (Deputy Chair)	Stephen Knight
Tony Arbour	Kit Malthouse
Gareth Bacon	Joanne McCartney
John Biggs	Steve O'Connell
Andrew Boff	Caroline Pidgeon MBE
Victoria Borwick	Murad Qureshi
James Cleverly	Onkar Sahota
Tom Copley	Navin Shah
Andrew Dismore	Valerie Shawcross CBE
Len Duvall	Richard Tracey
Roger Evans	Fiona Twycross
Nicky Gavron	

## **1. Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

## **2. Declarations of Interests (Item 2)**

2.1 **Resolved:**

- a) **That the list of memberships of functional bodies and London Borough Councils, as set out in the table at Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests;**
- b) **That the position of Kit Malthouse AM as Co-Chair of the London Enterprise Panel be additionally noted as a disclosable pecuniary interest; and**
- c) **That gifts and hospitality received by Members, as set out in the Authority's gifts and hospitality register, be noted.**

## **3. Minutes (Item 3)**

3.1 **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the London Assembly's (Mayor's Question Time) meeting held on 30 January 2013 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

## **4. Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2013-14 (Item 4)**

### **Report of the Mayor (Item 4a)**

4.1 The Assembly received an oral statement from the Mayor on his Final Draft 2013-14 Consolidated Budget for the GLA Group. A transcript of the oral statement is attached as **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, and Martin Clarke, Executive Director of Resources, were also in attendance for this item.

### **Questions to the Mayor (Item 4b)**

4.3 In accordance with Standing Order 4.5 and with the consent of the Chair, Valerie Shawcross AM moved, and Jenny Jones AM seconded, that the Assembly proceed to the next item of business on the agenda. Upon being put to the vote, this procedural motion was agreed (16 votes cast in favour and 8 votes cast against). As Item 4b was therefore not considered, the

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)  
Monday 25 February 2013**

Chair confirmed that the part of the meeting that required the Mayor's attendance was concluded.

**Consideration by the Assembly of the Mayor of London's Final Draft Consolidated Budget Proposals 2013-14 (Item 4c)**

- 4.4 Following the Mayor's departure, the Assembly debated the Mayor's Final Draft Consolidated Budget 2013-14.
- 4.5 The substantive motion before the Assembly was: "To approve the Final Draft Consolidated Budget for 2013-14 with or without amendment."
- 4.6 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Conservative Group, was moved by Gareth Bacon AM and seconded by Andrew Boff AM (and is attached as **Appendix 2**).
- 4.7 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Green Group, Liberal Democrat Group and Labour Group was moved by Jenny Jones AM and seconded by Caroline Pidgeon AM (and is attached as **Appendix 3**).
- 4.8 A formal budget amendment, presented on behalf of the London Assembly's Labour Group, Green Group and Liberal Democrat Group, was moved by John Biggs AM and seconded by Darren Johnson AM (and is attached as **Appendix 4**).
- 4.9 Following debate and in accordance with Standing Order 6.6E(1), a named vote was taken on each amendment.
- 4.10 Upon being put to the vote, the votes in respect of the amendment in the name of Gareth Bacon AM were cast as follows:
- For the amendment: Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM, Andrew Boff AM, Victoria Borwick AM, James Cleverly AM, Roger Evans AM, Kit Malthouse AM, Steve O'Connell AM and Richard Tracey AM.
- Against the amendment: John Biggs AM, Tom Copley AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Jenny Jones AM, Stephen Knight AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Onkar Sahota AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie Shawcross AM, Fiona Twycross AM, Darren Johnson AM (Deputy Chair) and Jennette Arnold AM (Chair).
- 4.11 The amendment was declared lost, with 9 votes being cast in favour and 16 votes being cast against.
- 4.12 Upon being put to the vote, the votes in respect of the amendment in the name of Jenny Jones AM were cast as follows:
- For the amendment: John Biggs AM, Tom Copley AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Jenny Jones AM, Stephen Knight AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Onkar Sahota AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)  
Monday 25 February 2013**

Shawcross AM, Fiona Twycross AM, Darren Johnson AM (Deputy Chair) and Jennette Arnold AM (Chair).

Against the amendment: Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM, Andrew Boff AM, Victoria Borwick AM, James Cleverly AM, Roger Evans AM, Kit Malthouse AM, Steve O'Connell AM and Richard Tracey AM.

4.13 With 16 votes being cast in favour and 9 votes being cast against, the amendment did not receive the requisite majority to amend the Mayor's budget proposals.

4.14 Upon being put to the vote, the votes in respect of the amendment in the name of John Biggs AM were cast as follows:

For the amendment: John Biggs AM, Tom Copley AM, Andrew Dismore AM, Len Duvall AM, Nicky Gavron AM, Jenny Jones AM, Stephen Knight AM, Joanne McCartney AM, Caroline Pidgeon AM, Murad Qureshi AM, Onkar Sahota AM, Navin Shah AM, Valerie Shawcross AM, Fiona Twycross AM, Darren Johnson AM (Deputy Chair) and Jennette Arnold AM (Chair).

Against the amendment: Tony Arbour AM, Gareth Bacon AM, Andrew Boff AM, Victoria Borwick AM, James Cleverly AM, Roger Evans AM, Kit Malthouse AM, Steve O'Connell AM and Richard Tracey AM.

4.15 With 16 votes being cast in favour and 9 votes being cast against, the amendment did not receive the requisite majority to amend the Mayor's budget proposals.

4.16 Joanne McCartney AM moved and Caroline Pidgeon AM seconded the following budget-related motion:

"This Assembly notes the statement made by the Mayor in the Mayor's Background Statement in support of his Final Draft Consolidated Budget for 2013-14:

"The current [Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017] consultation is designed to put officers before buildings, improve contact between police and the public and put more officers on the beat in local areas, providing more visible policing accountable to local people."

The Assembly also notes that despite this statement:

- The Mayor cannot demonstrate costed savings made by the closure of front counters across London though he does admit that "the closure of [a front counter] in isolation will not generate estate savings as the counter occupies only a small proportion of the building it is accommodated in." The Mayor also cannot demonstrate the costs of, or his budget for, providing new contact points to replace front counters across London.
- The Mayor has presented misleading data regarding police officer numbers for Oct 2011 in his Draft Police and Crime Plan consultation. In fact, compared to actual police numbers for Oct 2011, by 2015 half of London Boroughs will lose police officers while none will gain as many as the Mayor has promised. In addition PCSO numbers have dropped to 2,710 and are set to fall further, therefore depleting the police uniformed presence on London's streets

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)  
Monday 25 February 2013**

- The Mayor admits that "projections for the MPS's workforce over the remainder of the Spending Review period using the Operational Policing Measure analysis" have not been completed, so he is unable to establish whether his budget will result in an increase in the frontline capacity of the service or whether the decline of the past two years will continue.
- The Mayor is stripping back Safer Neighbourhood Teams from 1 sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs per ward to just 1 PC and 1 PCSO dedicated per ward with a "named but not dedicated" sergeant.

The Assembly therefore believes that as a result of this budget and the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan will leave London with fewer officers, a smaller frontline, fewer points of contact for the public and will strip back Safer Neighbourhood Teams leaving London's police less visible and less accountable to local people.

The Assembly therefore:

Calls on the Mayor to rethink his reckless plans for the estate rationalisation and give priority to maintaining a good network of front counters for the public and local bases for Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Calls on the Mayor to halt his plans to dilute dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams and to retain the model of 1 sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs as the standard across London

Calls on the Mayor to give clarity to Londoners regarding his use of police officers numbers in his Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017."

4.17 Upon being put to the vote, the budget related motion in the name of Joanne McCartney AM, namely:

**"This Assembly notes the statement made by the Mayor in the Mayor's Background Statement in support of his Final Draft Consolidated Budget for 2013-14:**

**"The current [Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017] consultation is designed to put officers before buildings, improve contact between police and the public and put more officers on the beat in local areas, providing more visible policing accountable to local people."**

**The Assembly also notes that despite this statement:**

- **The Mayor cannot demonstrate costed savings made by the closure of front counters across London though he does admit that "the closure of [a front counter] in isolation will not generate estate savings as the counter occupies only a small proportion of the building it is accommodated in." The Mayor also cannot demonstrate the costs of, or his budget for, providing new contact points to replace front counters across London.**

- **The Mayor has presented misleading data regarding police officer numbers for Oct 2011 in his Draft Police and Crime Plan consultation. In fact, compared to actual police numbers for Oct 2011, by 2015 half of London Boroughs will lose police officers while none will gain as many as the Mayor has promised. In addition PCSO numbers have dropped to 2,710 and are set to fall further, therefore depleting the police uniformed presence on London's streets**
- **The Mayor admits that "projections for the MPS's workforce over the remainder of the Spending Review period using the Operational Policing Measure analysis" have not been completed, so he is unable to establish whether his budget will result in an increase in the frontline capacity of the service or whether the decline of the past two years will continue.**
- **The Mayor is stripping back Safer Neighbourhood Teams from 1 sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs per ward to just 1 PC and 1 PCSO dedicated per ward with a "named but not dedicated" sergeant.**

**The Assembly therefore believes that as a result of this budget and the Mayor's Draft Police and Crime Plan will leave London with fewer officers, a smaller frontline, fewer points of contact for the public and will strip back Safer Neighbourhood Teams leaving London's police less visible and less accountable to local people.**

**The Assembly therefore:**

**Calls on the Mayor to rethink his reckless plans for the estate rationalisation and give priority to maintaining a good network of front counters for the public and local bases for Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

**Calls on the Mayor to halt his plans to dilute dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams and to retain the model of 1 sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs as the standard across London**

**Calls on the Mayor to give clarity to Londoners regarding his use of police officers numbers in his Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017."**

was agreed (16 votes cast in favour and 9 votes cast against).

4.18 Stephen Knight AM moved and Nicky Gavron AM seconded the following budget-related motion:

"This Assembly notes:

- i) That 380,301 households – or over 800,000 people – are currently on London boroughs' housing waiting lists, with one in four children living in overcrowded homes;
- ii) That just 425 affordable homes were started, and 1,558 completed, across London in the 6-month period to September 2012; and

**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)  
Monday 25 February 2013**

- iii) That one in four families (25.8 per cent) are now renting privately across London, with the sector increasingly being used to meet the housing needs of vulnerable households.

This Assembly further recognises:

- i) That London's population is expected to grow by 1.5 million over the next 20 years, increasing the need for affordable homes across the capital; and
- ii) That average rents in London's private sector are expected to rise by over 50 per cent in the next ten years, such that by 2024 the average private rent in the capital will be over £500 per week.

This Assembly believes:

- i) That a large new affordable home-building programme would boost jobs and growth at the same time as addressing London's chronic shortage of affordable homes; and
- ii) That a more consistent standard of property management and maintenance is required if the private rented sector is to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse range of tenants.

This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor:

- i) To use the new flexibilities over the distribution of Business Rates to release some of the on-going (and unforecast) surpluses generated by Transport for London (TfL) to meet the financing costs of building additional affordable homes across London;
- ii) To establish a 'Know your Rights' website for tenants;
- iii) To assist boroughs in using the full range of enforcement powers at their disposal to crack down on rogue landlords operating in the private rented sector;
- iv) To investigate the feasibility of creating a London-wide public lettings agency; and
- v) To examine the affordability of London rents and explore potential mechanisms for stabilising rent increases."

4.19 Upon being put to the vote, the budget related motion in the name of Stephen Knight AM, namely:

**"This Assembly notes:**

- i) That 380,301 households – or over 800,000 people – are currently on London boroughs' housing waiting lists, with one in four children living in overcrowded homes;**
- ii) That just 425 affordable homes were started, and 1,558 completed, across London in the 6-month period to September 2012; and**
- iii) That one in four families (25.8 per cent) are now renting privately across London, with the sector increasingly being used to meet the housing needs of vulnerable households.**

**This Assembly further recognises:**

Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)  
Monday 25 February 2013

- i) That London's population is expected to grow by 1.5 million over the next 20 years, increasing the need for affordable homes across the capital; and
- ii) That average rents in London's private sector are expected to rise by over 50 per cent in the next ten years, such that by 2024 the average private rent in the capital will be over £500 per week.

**This Assembly believes:**

- i) That a large new affordable home-building programme would boost jobs and growth at the same time as addressing London's chronic shortage of affordable homes; and
- ii) That a more consistent standard of property management and maintenance is required if the private rented sector is to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse range of tenants.

**This Assembly therefore calls on the Mayor:**

- i) To use the new flexibilities over the distribution of Business Rates to release some of the on-going (and unforecast) surpluses generated by Transport for London (TfL) to meet the financing costs of building additional affordable homes across London;
- ii) To establish a 'Know your Rights' website for tenants;
- iii) To assist boroughs in using the full range of enforcement powers at their disposal to crack down on rogue landlords operating in the private rented sector;
- iv) To investigate the feasibility of creating a London-wide public lettings agency; and
- v) To examine the affordability of London rents and explore potential mechanisms for stabilising rent increases."

was agreed (16 votes cast in favour and 9 votes cast against).

4.20 There being no other formal budget amendments or budget-related motions, the substantive motion, namely:

**"To approve the Final Draft Budget 2013-14 without amendment."**

was put to the vote.

4.21 There being 9 votes cast in favour and 16 votes cast against, the substantive motion was not agreed.



**Greater London Authority  
London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)  
Monday 25 February 2013**

- 4.22 The Chair explained that, as no amendments to the Budget had been agreed by the requisite majority, in accordance with Paragraph 8(5) of Schedule 6 to the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly was deemed to have approved, without amendment, the Final Draft Consolidated Budget for 2013-14.
- 4.23 The Chair announced that this concluded the Assembly's consideration of the Final Draft Consolidated Budget for 2013-14.

**5. Mayor's Report (Item 5)**

**5.1 Resolved:**

**That the Mayor's Report covering the period from 17 January to 11 February 2013 be noted.**

**6. Questions to the Mayor Submitted Under the Mayor's Question Time Procedure (Item 6)**

**6.1 Resolved:**

**That it be noted that written answers would be provided to all questions submitted to the meeting under the Mayor's Question Time procedure, by Thursday 28 February 2013.**

**7. Date of Next Meeting (Item 7)**

- 7.1 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the London Assembly would be the Plenary meeting which would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 13 March 2013 in the Chamber, City Hall.

**8. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 8)**

- 8.1 In accordance with section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted one item of urgent business in order that the matter could be dealt with at the first opportunity.

**8.2 Resolved:**

**That authority be delegated to the Chair to agree, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Leaders, proposals for the 13 March Assembly Plenary meeting.**

## 9. Close of Meeting

9.1 The meeting closed at 12.29pm.

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Chair

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Date

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